

Revision

a collection of blackout poetry

Oppressed people cannot remain oppressed forever. The yearning for freedom is universal. It is what has kept the American Negro. Something within has reminded him of his birthright of freedom, and something without has reminded him that it can be gained. Consciously or unconsciously, he has been engaged in rebellion, and with his black brothers and his brown and yellow brothers of Asia, Africa, and the Caribbean, the United States Negro is moving with a sense of great urgency toward his promised land of racial justice. If one recognizes this final urge that has engulfed the Negro community, one should realize that when public demonstrations are taken place, the Negro has many pent up resentments and latent frustrations, and he must release them. Do not forbid him this; let him make his prayer in public; let him go on freedom rides; let him understand why he must do so. If his emotions are not released, he will seek expression through violence; this is not a threat but a fact of history.

Oppression

by Julia Toplyn

Source document:

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.,
Letter from Birmingham Jail

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